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SOVIET UNION MILITARY-ECONOMIC REPORT

Translated from the German Report 3/5

Dated: 14 May 1943

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# PREFACE

During the Second World War the German Signal Intelligence Control Center of the Staff of the Chief of Army Signal Service (HNW,LNA) issued a series of reports to show the USSR military-economic situation as reflected in Russian internal plain language traffic. These reports appeared at short, irregular intervals, usually six per month, for the period October 1942-March 1943. Eighty-three of these reports have been translated and issued by [REDACTED]

It is planned to issue a complete set of translations of the reports beginning with the most recent and working backward, but omitting those already translated by [REDACTED]. The numbering of the items was added by the translator since the Germans did this only in the last eighteen reports, [REDACTED] inclusive. Since the original material was in Russian, an effort has been made when translating the German to determine the original Russian term wherever possible. This is facilitated by the Russian fondness for abbreviations. In these translations into English the probable meaning of the abbreviation will be given in parenthesis the first time it occurs in each report.

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14 May 1943

The Soviet Union

Military-Economic Report 3/5

(Based on domestic radio traffic)

Individual Messages

1.) Personnel Situation  
(NK for River Fleet)

(1) In spite of the evidently strained personnel situation, students from trade schools could be assigned to individual offices and steamship lines within the NKRF. Thus there were received by:

The Lower Volga Steamship Agency:

10 ship's enginemen  
20 helmsmen  
10 motor mechanics

Krasnoyarsk:

50 ship's machinists  
50 ship's enginemen  
24 helmsmen

Krasnoyarsk, Oblast' Waterways Directorate:

19 ship's machinists  
15 ship's enginemen  
20 helmsmen

Ulan-Ude:

9 ship's mechanics  
8 ship's enginemen  
2 carpenters

Omsk:

19 ship's pilots

(2) The newly recruited people are receiving good food and an advance of 300 rubles which must be paid back in six monthly installments.

(3) The number of trade schools is likely to be increased for a further guarantee of new blood in the skilled labor force. Thus the opening of a new school could be confirmed in Semipalatinsk.

In addition, the following messages on personnel assignments and mobilizations could be noted:

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(4) Vladimirovka is receiving:

for dock work:	10 carpenters	from Arkul
	10 caulkers	from Arkul
	10 carpenters	from Kujbyshev
	10 caulkers	from Kujbyshev
for repair work:	13 ship's carpenters	from the shipyards in Raznezh'e and Gorodets
	7 caulkers	from the shipyard in Sokolskoe

(5) Up to 2 May, 103 persons arrived in Cherdyn for an addition to the timber floating force.

(6) 700 mobilized and 1500 other workers have been allocated to the Timber-Felling Combine in Tomsk for the period from 1 July to the end of the navigation period.

(7) Furthermore, women are also being called up for work. The office for Military Control in Krasnoyarsk is training women as automobile drivers for its own needs as a substitute for the men who have been called up.

(8) There are great difficulties with respect to apprentice divers in spite of the fact that, as already reported, women are being drawn into this vocation. Thus, for example, Gorkij can not organize any courses in diving for the time being because of lack of suitable people.

(9) The personnel situation at the NKRF office in Molotov is likewise unsatisfactory, for as of 1 May the office had only 2770 persons at its disposal, while 2929 persons were needed.

As has already been reported in Military-Economic Report 2/5, the lack of personnel is partly to be traced to poor organization. This is confirmed by the following messages:

(10) Up to 1 May, Gorkij received only 45 mobilized persons instead of the planned 60.

(11) Molotov unsatisfactorily carried out the mobilization for the reconstruction of the fleet. As of 1 May, only 30 persons were secured instead of the planned 460.

(12) Ilijsk mobilized only 83 persons as longshoremen instead of 250.

(13) From a message to Ust'-Usa it appears that cases of wilful abandonment of the work area are to be noted.

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(14) The following social measures merit attention: According to government decree, the NKRF offices are obliged to accept students from children's homes of the NK for Culture and Information as well as from the local directorates of NKVD worker colonies and to employ them according to their training and to guarantee their further training.

2.) Food Situation

(15) A thorough survey of the capacity of the Georgian Food and Luxury Industry allows the following production plan for May, which was approved by the Georgian Council of Ministers:

Bakery goods	14000 tons
Macaroni	800
Confectionery goods	330
Oil	140
Tobacco	500
Natural tea	350
Pressed tea	750
Wine	85000 decaliters
Mineral water	8000
Alcohol	13000
Vodka	10000
Beer	142000
Alcohol-free drinks	75000
Preserves	8000 boxes
Cigarettes	35000000 pieces

(16) The extent of the tea harvest may be seen from the following procurement plans for tea leaves:

for May	3604 tons of tea leaves
for June	2625 tons of tea leaves
for July	3673 tons of tea leaves
for August	3637 tons of tea leaves
for September	1710 tons of tea leaves

(17) In the month of May an output of 600 tons of soya flour is planned for the milling combine in Erivan.

(18) Great efforts are being made in the sphere of stock-farming. Thus in Krasnovodsk the number of hogs was doubled. In April, however, because of lack of fodder, losses as a result of exhaustion were to be noted.

(19) Tiflis, NK for Vegetable Fats and Oils, delivered the following quantities of vegetable oil in April:

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to NK for Coal	2.7 tons
Commissaries	3.7
Naval commissaries	3.0
Special trade departments	2.4
Trade-union association	1.0
NK for Aviation Industry	3.1
Intourist	0.1
Elektronets	0.8
NK for Munitions	0.3
NK for Chemical Industry	0.2
NK for Workbench Construction	0.2
NK for Defense of the Land	0.4
NK for Transtorgpit (?)	8.7
NK for Merchant Shipping	1.9
NK for Textiles	0.8
NK for Light Industry	0.4
NK for Food Industry	0.2
Film enterprises	0.3
Food Supply for Rare Metal Workin g	0.2
Food Supply for Goldsmithing	0.3
NK for Shipbuilding Industry	0.9
NK for Communications	9.5
<b>TOTAL FOR THE MARKET</b>	<b>41.1</b>

(20) On 26 April the Tiflis Milling Combine delivered to:

Milling Combine in Navtlug	2438 tons of barley
	832 tons of millet
Milling Combine in Poti	1374 tons of barley
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4644 tons</b>

On hand at milling combine in Navtlug	780 tons of barley
On hand at milling combine in Poti	1630 tons of barley
On hand at the local industry mill	14 tons of barley

(21) Erivan. Armenian NK for the Food Industry, received 575 tons of barley on 1 May.

(22) There were authorized for the second quarter:

For Tiflis, Highway Directorate:	1.0 ton candy
For Tobacco Factory in Tiflis:	4.1 tons meat products
	3.9 tons fish
	0.6 tons butter
	1.1 ton vegetable oil
	0.4 ton sugar
	1.2 ton candy
For canning plant in Kutaisi:	3.1 tons meat products
	2.1 tons fish
	0.5 ton butter
	0.9 ton vegetable oil
	0.3 ton sugar
	0.9 ton can dy



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For canning plant in Gori:	2.4 tons meat products
	2.2 tons fish
	0.4 ton butter
	0.7 ton vegetable oil
	0.2 ton sugar

(23) The North Osetian NK for Trade required 160 tons of groats monthly for the second quarter and 40 tons of assorted flour for May.

(24) Very great attention is being paid to the reconstruction of agriculture in the liberated oblasti; personnel and implements according to the following list have been sent to the following places:

Stavropol' Rajon

36 motor vehicles, 24 tractors and the following labor troops: 14 farmers, 22 mechanics, 4 bookkeepers, 1 zoological technician, 20 tractor drivers, threshing-machine driver.

Krasnodar Rajon

46 farmers, 30 mechanics, 30 bookkeepers, 14 tractor drivers, 1 foreman.

Kabardino-Balkar

2 veterinarians, 6 tractor drivers, 1 foreman

(25) Also seed grain in the amount of 300 tons of wheat, 50 tons of oats, and 50 tons of millet were placed at the disposal of the collective farms in Kalach Rajon.

(26) Significant for the agricultural situation in Russia is the report that the Georgian collective farms owe the following quantities of grain to the Grain Procurement in Tiflis, according to an inventory of 1 March:

Corn grain	4227.7 tons
Beans	3.5
Sunflowers	4.7
Soya beans	0.9

The debt is to be repaid from the 1943 harvest.

(27) Reports on the fish catch present a favorable picture. Difficulties arise whose causes do not lie in poor yields but are to be traced to the unsatisfactory transport situation or other deficiencies. For example, 1000 tons of loose, salted Crimean anchovies have accumulated in Sukhumi. The local Fish Sales urgently requires the shipment of packing material from the Georgian Chief Directorate for Fish Sales.

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(28) Very significant for the fast tempo of reconstruction in Russia is the fact that the Fish Combine in Azov can send immediately 10 carloads of fresh frozen whitefish and 1 carload of caviar to Moscow. Astrakhan seems to be an important fishing center. Thus Astrakhan NKRF is delivering 50 tons of fish to Kujbyshev, 110 tons to Molotov, 15 tons to Ufa, and 125 tons to Gorkij.

(29) Astrakhan, "Volga Tanker", requires 800 tons of salt for processing larger quantities of fish.

(30) The NKRF longshoremen in Stalingrad, Kamyshin, Krasnoarmejsk, and Astrakhan are receiving the following special allotments upon fulfillment of the work norms, without detaching ration coupons, per person per day:

70 grams of meat or fish  
10 grams of fat  
100 grams of groats  
50 grams of macaroni

These allotments come from the NKRF's own supplies.

3.) Metal Supply

(31) Scrap collections seem to be taking a satisfactory course. Procurements beyond shipments were reported. This is apparently connected with the transport situation, for the copper rolling mill in Tiflis could not undertake any shipments in the first five days of May, according to an agreement with the Transcaucasus Railroad.

(32) With a production of 45 tons and a personnel of 38, this copper rolling mill had in April total costs of 144000 rubles and sales of 337000 rubles, which means a profit of 134% of total costs.

(33) Also Ordzhonikidze reports that 15 tons of brass remain unloaded at the Ogni railroad station. However, almost 90% of the shipments, 143 tons of brass, could be transported in April.

(34) Numerous authorizations could be confirmed for NKRF enterprises.

(35) It appears that metal production is at a satisfactory level.

(36) There is a warehouse for loot in Sal'sk. Captured metal goods are apparently collected in it. Thus it is reported that 40 tons of wire are to be found there.

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Steel and Iron

a) Raw Materials

1.) Scrap and chips

(37) The following quantities were shipped:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Plant</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
8.8 tons	Gorkij, NKRF	Up to 1 May (an additional 8 tons are ready)
11.0	Tiflis, NK for Meat and Dairy Sales	1st quarter (an additional 4 tons are ready)
3.0	"	In April
4.0	Tiflis, Canning Industry	For 2nd quarter

(38) The following quantities are to be received:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Plant</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
1350 tons	Gorkij, NKRF	In 2nd quarter
	Plant "Teplokhod"	
17	Kujbyshev, NKRF	In 2nd quarter
	Plant "Margulej"	
102	"	In 2nd quarter
20	Molotov, NKRF	In 2nd quarter
17	Pavlodar, NKRF	In 2nd quarter
34	Chkalovsk, NKRF	In 2nd quarter, from Gorkij
33	Gorkij, NKRF	In 2nd quarter
5	Technical Dept. of the Black Sea Fleet	In 2nd quarter

(39) There were received:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Plant</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
17 tons	Ulan-Ude, NKRF	In 1st quarter

2.) Pig iron and steel

(40) Required were:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Plant</u>
5 tons	Ferrosilicon	Kujbyshev, NKRF

(41) Authorized were:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Plant</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
40 tons	Cast Iron	Kujbyshev, NKRF	2nd quarter, for ship repair
130	Cast Iron	Kujbyshev, NKRF	From Vol'sk
34	Cast Iron	Molotov, NKRF	In June from Novotagil'sk
100	Cast Iron	Kotlas, NKRF	From Ust'-Usa
3	Steel, alloyed	Astrakhan, "Volga Tanker"	From Stalingrad

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b) Semi-Finished Products

(42) Required:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Plant</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
200 tons	Tinplate	Molotov, NKRF	---
30	Tinplate	Krasnoyarsk, NKRF	---
8	Bolts	Gorkij, NKRF	---
2	Rivets	Gorkij, NKRF	---
4	Nails	Gorkij, NK RF	---
2	Wire	Gorkij, NKRF	---

(43) Authorized:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Plant</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
110 tons	Mine rails	Kisel', Mine Railroad	From Novosibirsk
20	Roofing sheet	Upper Volga Steamship Agency	From Molotov
4.5	Bolts	Molotov, NKRF	---
6	Nails	Stalingrad, NKRF	From Gorkij
16	Wire	Molotov, NKRF	From a plant in Beloretsk

(44) Received:

<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Plant</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
21 tons	Section Iron	Ulan-Ude	In 1st quarter
1	Nails	Ulan-Ude	In 1st quarter

4.) Oil Supply

(45) In April, 103 tons of oil were required in Makhachkala.

(46) There is a lack of fuel in agriculture. As a result there are numerous requisitions. In Kujbyshev, NKRF, field cultivation cannot be carried out for lack of fuel. The NK for Trade in North Osetia requires 78 tons of fuel for similar purposes; Krasnoyarsk, NKRF requires 15 tons; and the Georgian NK for Textiles in Tiflis requires 16 tons. There have been requisitions from the following places during the period of this report:

	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Fuel</u>	<u>Requisitioning Point</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
(47)	60 tons	Gasoline	Tiflis, Highways Directorate	For May
(48)	2 tons	Gasoline	Tiflis, NK for Textiles	For field cultivation
(49)	10 tons	Gasoline	Ordzhonikidze, NK for Trade, North Osetia	"
(50)	10 tons	Gasoline	Ordzhonikidze, NK for North Osetia	---

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	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Fuel</u>	<u>Requisitioning Point</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
(51)	5 tons	Gasoline	Ordzhonikidze	---
(52)	9 tons	Gasoline	Erivan, NK for Light Industry	For May
(53)	0.5	Gasoline	Erivan, NK for Silk Industry	For May
(54)	10	Oil	Gorkij, NKRF	For May
(55)	2	Oil	Ulan-Ude, NKRF	---
(56)	60	Oil Bitumen	Kazan', Flax Plant	For 2nd quarter
(57)	52	Petroleum	Gorkij, NKRF	For May
(58)	68	Petroleum	Ordzhonikidze, NK for Trade with North Osetia	For field cultivation
(59)	15	Petroleum	Krasnoyarsk, NKRF	For field cultivation
(60)	0.5	Petroleum	Ulan-Ude, NKRF	For field cultivation
(61)	4 tons	Petroleum	Erivan, NK for Light Industry	For May
(62)	10 tons	Petroleum	Tiflis, NK for Textiles	For field cultivation
(63)	4	Petroleum	Ordzhonikidze	---
(64)	0.25	Petroleum	Erivan, NK for Silk Industry	For May
(65)	550	Mazut	Erivan, NK for Light Industry	For May
(66)	22	Ligroin	Gorkij, NKRF	For May
(67)	4	Ligroin	Tiflis, NK for Textiles	For field cultivation
(68)	4	Ligroin	Erivan, NK for Light Industry	---
(69)	10	Ligroin	Ordzhonikidze, NK for North Osetia	---
(70)	10	Lubricating oil	Ordzhonikidze, Canning Industry	---
(71)	8	Lubricating oil	Erivan, NK for Light Industry	For May

(72) From a message to Stalingrad and Astrakhan NKRF it is to be understood that

the May allotments may be made only at the level of 20% of the April allotments. This reduction was undertaken either in order to relieve the transport situation or as a result of increased military demands. A message to Novosibirsk, NKRF, according to which steam tugs with water tube boilers are to be converted to peat combustion, is perhaps connected with these difficulties. On the other hand, there are contradictory communications to Molotov, NKRF, and to other NKRF offices, that various ships are to be reconverted to the combustion of liquid fuels, with retention of the installation for the use of solid fuels. Apparently these decisions depend upon the conditions of transport for the different fuels in the individual oblasti.

The following delivery authorizations were noted:

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	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Fuel</u>	<u>Requisitioning Point</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
(73)	900 tons	Gasoline	Tabriz	From Batumi Oil Export in May
(74)	3 tons	Gasoline	Plant "Plamya"	From Tiflis Oil Supply
(75)	2	Gasoline	Kislovodsk Electrical Plant	Stavropol' Oil Supply
(76)	4	Gasoline	Essentuki Sovkhoz Combine "Karl Marx"	Stavropol' Oil Supply
(77)	3	Gasoline	Kujbyshev NKRF	In May
(78)	3	Gasoline	Ural'sk NKRF	In May
(79)	20	Petroleum	Essentuki Sovkhoz Combine "Karl Marx"	---
(80)	15	Petroleum	Pyatigorsk, USSR Sovkhoz Transport	In May
(81)	6	Petroleum	Kujbyshev NKRF	In May
(82)	1	Petroleum	Kislovodsk Electrical Plant	---
(83)	7	Petroleum	Ural'sk NKRF	In May
(84)	1000	Diesel Fuel	Kamust'e NKRF	From Chistopol'
(85)	70	Diesel Fuel	Kujbyshev, NKRF	In May
(86)	2000	Mazut	Ufa NKRF	For Belaya Steamship Agency
(87)	14000	Mazut	Kujbyshev NKRF	In May
(88)	540	Motor Oil	Kujbyshev NKRF	In May
(89)	1	Ligroin	Kujbyshev NKRF	In May
(90)	1	Ligroin	Ural'sk NKRF	In May
(91)	1 carload	Oil Bitumen	Chistopol' Ship Repair Yard	From Ufa Refinery

(92) It is worth noting that gasoline is being exported to Iran. A shipment of 900 tons

of gasoline went from Batumi to Tabriz.

(93) The steamship lines do not yet seem to be sufficiently supplied with fuel, for

the water transport bases at Saratov and Stalingrad were without fuel.

(94) It appears from messages that Rostov Oblast' is receiving considerable fuel. \*

Deliveries

	<u>Quantity</u>	<u>Fuel</u>	<u>Consignee</u>	<u>Remarks</u>
(95)	168 tank cars	Oil	Rostov	On 14 April from Armavir
(96)	11	Oil	Rostov	On 1 May from Armavir
(97)	12	Oil	Rostov	On 2 May
(98)	483	Oil	Rostov	In April from Makhachkala
(99)	100	Oil	Rostov	On 1 May from Makhachkala
(100)	800 tons	Petroleum	Rostov Oblast'	From Rostov Oil Supply up to 25 April
(101)	180	Ligroin	Rostov Oblast'	"
(102)	60	Avtol	Rostov Oblast'	"

(103) Inventory and turnover messages show in most cases a greater amount used

than received, so that inventories are cut down.

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Turnover and Inventories

(104) Tiflis, Georgian Grain Procurement, turnover for 1-15 April:

	<u>On Hand 1 April</u>	<u>Received</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>On Hand 16 April</u>
Gasoline	1.4 tons	4.3 tons	5.7 tons	---
Petroleum	0.23	3.0	1.8	1.43 tons
Mazut	1.4	9.0	4.9	5.5

(105) Tiflis, Tea Sales (?), fuel turnover in April (?):

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>On Hand</u>
Gasoline	22.5 tons	25.9 tons	11.3 tons
Petroleum	30.0	24.1	37.3
Oil /Naphta/	16.1	21.0	3.9
Mazut	29.6	31.4	8.4
Ligroin	1.6	0.5	3.4
Oil	3.6	4.8	2.5

(106) Poti, "Tsentrolit", fuel turnover 1-5 May:

	<u>Received</u>	<u>Used</u>	<u>On Hand</u>
Gasoline	---	0.285 ton	1.315 ton
Petroleum	1.0 ton	---	1.0
Mazut	---	6.0 tons	28.0 tons

(107) Tiflis, Fat Sales, had a stock of 25 tons of mixed fats on 1 May.

5.) Production and Construction

(108) The mention, already contained in Military-Economic Report 2/5, of the build-up of Soviet Russian production must once more be especially emphasized. Thus in Erivan, for the build-up of the oil industry, 700 tons of cement for May and 210 carloads of cement for the whole quarter are being authorized, the equivalent of 4500 to 6000 tons of cement. Likewise a large construction project is being finished in Sevan (on Lake Sevan, 55 kilometers northeast of Erivan), for which in May, in addition to 800 tons of cement which are to be brought in by the project's own means of transportation, 32 carloads of cement were authorized to be delivered by the Transcaucasus Bureau of the Chief Directorate of Construction Materials Sales.

(109) Construction work in the liberated oblasti is being carried out with remarkable energy and tenacity. Thus in Rostov there are being built

the plant "Krasnyj Aksaj"  
an ironware plant  
a flax plant  
a plant for agricultural machinery

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(110) It appears as though the Russians are not concerned about a second loss of Rostov/Don, as is shown by the following message from the radio network of the NKRF:

"A technical school for the River Fleet is being established in Rostov/Don. Its organization must be fully completed by 1 October 1943?7."

(111) Newly identified plants:

Plant "Iskra" in Borovsk, Molotov Rajon, producing electric motors.

Canning factories in Sukhumi, Sugdidi, and Gurdzhani.

Ship repair yard No. 638 in Stalingrad.

Plant No. 639 in Omsk.

Machine and tractor shops in Oktober, making repairs on tractors for the Red Army.

6.) Transport Situation

(112) The transport situation develops ever more unsatisfactorily. In Erivan during April the following shipments could not be made for lack of rolling stock:

50 carloads of flour  
8 carloads of sacks  
36 carloads of wheat  
16 carloads of rice  
1 carload of oats  
1 carload of linseed

(113) An untenable situation has arisen for the chemical combine in Kirovakan. The Transcaucasus Railroad is to furnish 10 cars daily for the shipment of chemical products which are destined for the armaments industry, particularly for the aviation and tank industries. The supply of freight cars is extremely irregular and sometimes does not take place for days at a time. The plant "Generator" in Tiflis has not been able to ship caustic soda for a week. Likewise in Tiflis 200 tons of laurel await shipment.

(114) The unsatisfactory transport situation is to be traced not only to the lack of rolling stock, but also to the defective outfitting of the right-of-way with signals, tracks, etc. Thus, for example, Ordzhonikidze reports that 1000 signal lamps are missing, so that the safety and speedy dispatching of traffic are greatly prejudiced. Repair of bridges on the Ordzhonikidze Railroad is not proceeding fast enough, because bridge-building materials are lacking.

(115) The following could be identified as freight car requisitions for the months of May, June, and July:

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30 cars	Plant "Kirov"	Machine Parts	July
30 cars	Plant "Kirov"	Tools	July

Erivan

22 cars	Plant "Prom- tekhnika"	Cement	May
122 cars	Timber Industry		June

Kujbyshev

2 cars	NK for Light Industry	Footwear	June
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(116) The following extract from a message provides information about the burden of the Ordzhonikidze Railroad:

"As of 1800 hours on 3 May 1943: In all there are 10366 loaded freight cars on hand, of which 2626 cars, equalling 237 transports, are loaded with supply freight and 1902 cars, equalling 57 military transports, are loaded with operative freight."

(117) The transport situation is developing unsatisfactorily not only on the railroads, but also on the waterways. Some of the NKRF offices (for example, in Semipalatinsk) could not fulfill their April transport plans. Novosibirsk NKRF has to carry out a water transport of 49200 tons in June on the order of the NK for the Timber Industry in Moscow.